THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

Willm. Williams, Eſq;

SPEAKER of the HOUSE of COMMONS,

To the HONOURABLE

Houſe of Commons,

UPON

The Electing of him SPEAKER in the PARLIAMENT At *Oxford, Monday* the 21*ſt.* day of *March*, 1680.

TOGETHER,

With his SPEECHES to His Moſt *Excellent Majeſty*, at the Preſenting of him Speaker to His Majeſty by the Commons in PARLIAMENT, upon *Tueſday* 22d. day of the ſame Month.

LONDON,

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THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

Will. Williams, Eſq;

To the Houſe of

COMMONS,

Upon the electing of him Speaker, at *Oxford*,

Monday, 21. *Mar.* 1680.

GENTLEMEN,

IT were vanity in me by Arguments from Weakneſs and Unfitneſs to diſable my ſelf for your Service in this Chair at this Time.

The unanimous Voice of the Houſe calling me to this Place encludes me, and leaves me without excuſe: Whom the Commons have elected for this Truſt is to be ſuppoſed worthy and fit for it; wherefore I muſt acquieſce in your Commands.

Apprehending this Choice proceeds from the Example you have from your Countries by your own Elections, making this Parliament, as much as in you and them lies, the ſame with the laſt; therefore you have the ſame Speaker.

I ought not to offer any ſort of Aſſurance to this Houſe of my reſolved Conſtancy, Fidelity and Vigilancy in the diſcharge of this Duty; The juſt ſenſe I have of the Honour generally given me this day is your ſtipulation for my good Abearance; the Truſt I owe and am to anſwer to God, my Religion, to *England* and *Engliſhmen* in this Service, muſt tie me to doe and ſuffer all that Fleſh and Bloud can add or endure in your Choice.

This is not the time to ſpeak much, but to act well: Without more words then, in order to our proper Parliamentary Method of Proceedings, Gentlemen, admit me to make it my firſt Motion, That your Debates and Proceedings may be regular and orderly, without Reflection, without Paſſion; and that my Actings and Behaviour may have your kinde and candid Conſtruction; and you ſhall find there is not any thing ſo dear to me which ſhall not be advanced in the Service of the Commons in Parliament by me.

THE

THE SPEECH

Of the Honourable

Will. Williams, Eſq;

To His Moſt Excellent

MAJESTY,

At the Preſenting of him Speaker by the Commons to His MAJESTY, at *Oxford*, upon *Tueſday*, 22. *Mar.* 1680.

May it pleaſe your Majeſty,

THE Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes in Parliament aſſembled, with Duty and Loyalty agreeable to themſelves and the Perſons whom they repreſent, have in Obedience to Your Royal Pleaſure, for the diſpoſing of themſelves in that great Aſſembly for Your Majeſties Service, conſidered of a Speaker; and, to manifeſt to Your Majeſty and the World they are not inclinable to Changes, have with one Voice elected me their Speaker, having had the Honour to ſerve Your Majeſty and the Commons in that Truſt in the laſt Parliament.

With

With all Humility I preſume again by their Commands to ſtand before Your Majeſty to receive Your Pleaſure with a Head and Heart full of Loyalty to Your Sacred Perſon; armed with a ſettled Reſolution never to depart from Your well ancient and eſtabliſhed Government.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR BY HIS Majeſties Command

Said to this purpoſe.

Mr. Speaker,

FOR ſo I am commanded to call you, His Majeſty hath well conſidered the Choice the Commons have made, and does very much approve of that Election, and doth accept and allow you for Speaker.

The further

SPEECH

OF

Will. Williams Eſq;

Then Preſented to

His Moſt Excellent Majeſty.

Moſt Gracious Soveraign,

NAtural Allegiance commands Loyalty to Your Majeſty from every Subject,

Your ſingular Grace and Favour to me in the laſt Parliament, continued by the honour I have in this, add more than Dutyfulneſs and Obedience to my Loyalty.

I am ſet in the firſt Station of your Commons for Truſt and Quality; an high and ſlippery place: It requires a ſteady Head and a well poiz'd Body in him that will ſtand firm there: Uprightneſs is the ſafe Poſture and beſt Policy, and ſhall be mine in this place, guarded with this Opinion, that Your Majeſties ſervice in this Truſt, is one and the ſame with the ſervice of your Commons, and that they are no more to be divided than Your Crown and Scepter.

They truly ſerve the Crown and Countrey, (which ſhall be my Care and Induſtry)

ſtry) who make the ſafety of Your Sacred Perſon, the Defence and Security of the Proteſtant Religion, the Support of Your Majeſties Government, the Maintenance of the Laws, and Preſervation of the ancient Conſtitutions of Parliament; one and the ſame undivided Intereſt, one and the ſame Safety, one and the ſame inſeparable Security, for Your ſelf and People.

Theſe are the Deſires of all good men, but muſt be the effects of good Counſel for the enabling of Your Majeſties great Council now in Parliament aſſembled, to compleat this bleſſed Eſtabliſhment with all humility. I addreſs to your Majeſty in the name, and on the behalf of the Commons in Parliament.

I. That We and our Servants may be free in our Perſons and Eſtates, from Arreſts and other Diſturbances.

II. That in our Debates, Liberty and Freedom of Speech be allowed us.

III. That as Occaſion ſhall require, Your Majeſty will vouchſafe us acceſs to Your Royal Perſon.

I take leave to joyn this humble Petition for my ſelf, That nothing by me in Weakneſs, or through Inadvertency, ſaid or done, may turn to the Prejudice of the Commons, and that my Behaviour and Proceedings may receive a benign and favourable Interpretation with your Gracious Majeſty.

The Lord Chancellor, by Command from his Majeſty, ſaid to this Effect.

Mr. Speaker,

ALL your Petitions are fully and freely granted by His *Majeſty*, in as large and in ample a manner as ever any Houſe of Commons yet enjoyed them: The King is very ſure the Wiſdom of this Houſe of Commons, will make as prudent an uſe of them, as any of your Anceſtors ever did: Your own particular Petition is grateful to the King too, becauſe he knows you will be careful to avoid miſtakes as His *Majeſty* is ready to forgive them.

And now Mr. *Speaker*, theſe Preliminaries being thus over, the King deſires you would haſten to the reſt that are neceſſary to be diſpatch'd, before we can enter upon *Buſineſs*, that ſo we may husband time, which is now more neceſſary than ever, and he hopes that this Parliament will come to a very happy and proſperous Concluſion, and that it may do ſo, God Almighty Direct and Proſper all your Conſultations.

FINIS.